JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

BIG BROTHER? WHY DO YOU HATE "FATHER"?

SAY...

FATHER RESCUED US FROM MOREAU'S LABORATORY.

FATHER IS A GOOD PERSON, RIGHT?

A GOOD PERSON? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

THAT IS...

THAT WOMAN IS A VAMPIRE.

VANITAS.

VANITAS!!

CAST

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

Mémoire 18 Dos à dos

THE SHAPE OF SALVATION

SOMEDAY, I SWEAR...

...I'LL STEAL THAT POWER OF YOURS AND MASSACRE ALL VAMPIRES!

!?

DO (BOOM)

IF YOU CAN'T MOVE, STAY BACK, PLEASE.

DO (THOOM)

...TELL ME.

DO (ZZZ) DO

DON'T GIVE ME THAT! I CAN MOVE, YOU IDIOT!

IN THAT CASE ...

UH —

HUH !?

FRANKLY, YOU'RE IN THE WAY!

WHAT ON EARTH... IS THAT !?

GUCHA (SPLUTCH)

BUCHI (SNAP)

BARI

BARI

BARI (CRUNCH)

PRÉDATEUR, THE SHADOW.

MALNOMEN ...

... BLACK AND SQUIRMY, ISN'T IT, "FATHER."

IT'S SORT OF...

THE SHADOW SWELLS, GROWING LARGER AND LARGER, AND IN THE END, IT SWALLOWS THE VAMPIRE WHO OWNED IT.

THE SHADOW OF ONE UNDER THIS CURSE BEGINS TO WRITHE AS IF IT HAS A WILL OF ITS OWN.

IT'S A VAMPIRE'S SHADOW, MADE PHYSICAL.

PRÉDATEUR IS A GLUTTON.

IT KILLS AND EATS ANYTHING IT CAN REACH.

UNTIL THE MOMENT IT CONSUMES THE LAST OF THE LIFE-FORCE OF THE VAMPIRE WHO CREATED IT...

GUCHA

GUCHA (SPLITCH)

DYU— (SPURT)

...ITS ONLY GOAL WILL BE SIMPLY DEVOURING LIFE.

ZA

ZA

ZA
(SKASH)

EEG!?

BOKO
(BLOOP)

ZAA
(SHUFF)

"SOME-
HOW"?

DRAG IT OUT SOMEHOW! HURLING INVERSE OPERATIONS AT THE SHADOW WON'T DO A THING!

NOÉ! THE CURSE-BEARER WHO CREATED THAT SHADOW HAS TO BE INSIDE IT.

MARIA!

DO (THUMP)

GHK ...

BYUU (WHOOSH)

GUN (CLING)

!!

GÁN
(CLANG)

MARIA
!!

NOÉ!

YOU
MORON—

WHA
...!?

...
GH
...

ZURU
(SLUMP)

GAN GWAANG

STUPID.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

SAY...

...TO THE POINT WHERE YOU GET HURT LIKE THAT?

...THE VAMPIRES OF THE RED MOON WHO SHUNNED AND EXILED "FATHER"...

WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAVE...

THAT WAY NOBODY ELSE WILL HAVE TO GET HURT FOR NO REASON.

YOU SHOULD HURRY AND TELL THOSE PEOPLE.

YOU'RE TOO LATE ANYWAY.

YOU DON'T WANT SOMEBODY TO DIE BECAUSE OF YOU AGAIN, DO YOU...?

VANITAS!

...

UGH

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, VANITAS!

ZU (SHUF)

DO

DO (WHUD)

DOGA (THUD)

BICHA (SPLITCH)

BICHA

GAN (CLANG)

...NOÉ.

SEND LAURENT AND THE OTHERS OUT OF THE ROOM.

UNTIL THAT HAPPENS, WE CAN JUST KEEP IT SHUT IN THE LABORATORY.

THAT SHADOW... ONCE IT CONSUMES THE LIFE OF THE CURSE-BEARER INSIDE IT, IT WILL DISAPPEAR ON ITS OWN.

YOU MEAN... YOU CAN'T SAVE IT?

...

...THAT WILL END THE MATTER.

SINCE WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO TEAR THE CURSE-BEARER OUT OF THE SHADOW...

...THERE'S... NOTHING WE CAN—

IT'S...

...TOO LATE ANYWAY.

NOT YET!!

I DON'T ...

...WANT TO GIVE UP YET!

WHAT?

VANITAS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE INSIDE OF ITS MOUTH IS LIKE?

I THOUGHT, IF WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO TEAR IT FREE FROM THE OUTSIDE, THEN THERE'S JUST ONE THING TO DO!

...IT'S PROBABLY LINKED TO A DIFFERENT DIMENSION LIKE THE BORDER, I THI—

HOLD IT.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING?

ULTIMATELY, THAT MAY BE SO...

...BUT FROM THE WAY YOU JUST PUT IT, IT SOUNDED AS IF YOU DON'T DIE INSTANTLY THE MOMENT YOU ENTER ITS BODY.

IF THAT THING EATS YOU, YOU DIE!!

NO, NO, NO, NO, WAIT!!

...
NO.

HUH!? HEY, NOÉ, WAIT—

KATSU (TAK)

I'LL MANAGE ON MY OWN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.

WHAT ARE YOU?

VANITAS.

WHY...

...ARE YOU HERE, RIGHT NOW, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN TO GET HERE?

I'M...

...

...SHUT UP!

STUPID.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

I AM...

...A DOCTOR.

I AM HERE...

...TO SAVE VAMPIRES!

!

LAURENT!!

DA (DASH)

GIVE US COVER!!

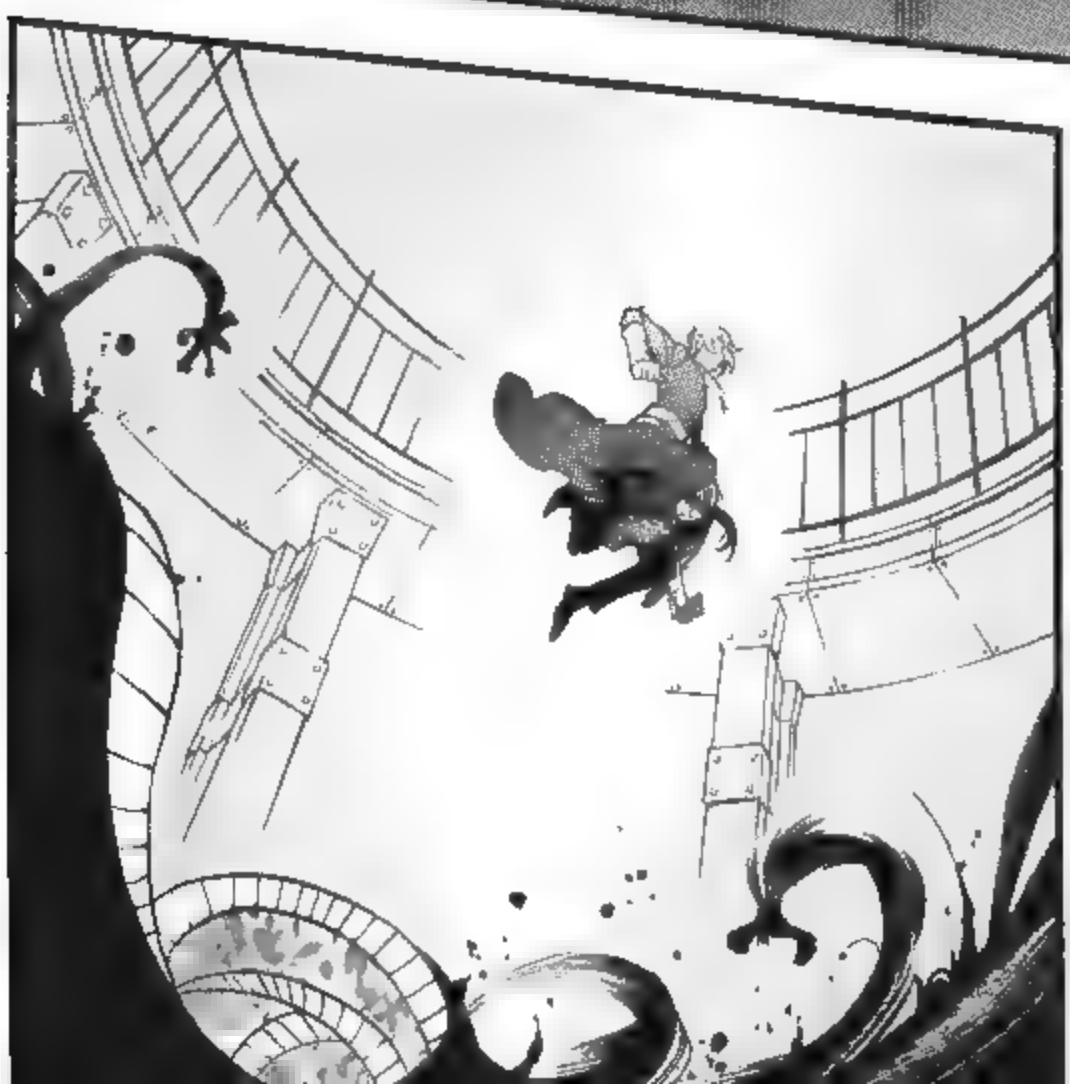
MARIA!
GEORGES!

ZA
(SKASH)

ZA

TAKE
IT
DOWN
!!

DOOON
(BOOOM)



YOU
KNOW
...

...YOU REALLY ARE A PREPOSTEROUS FELLOW!

THAT...

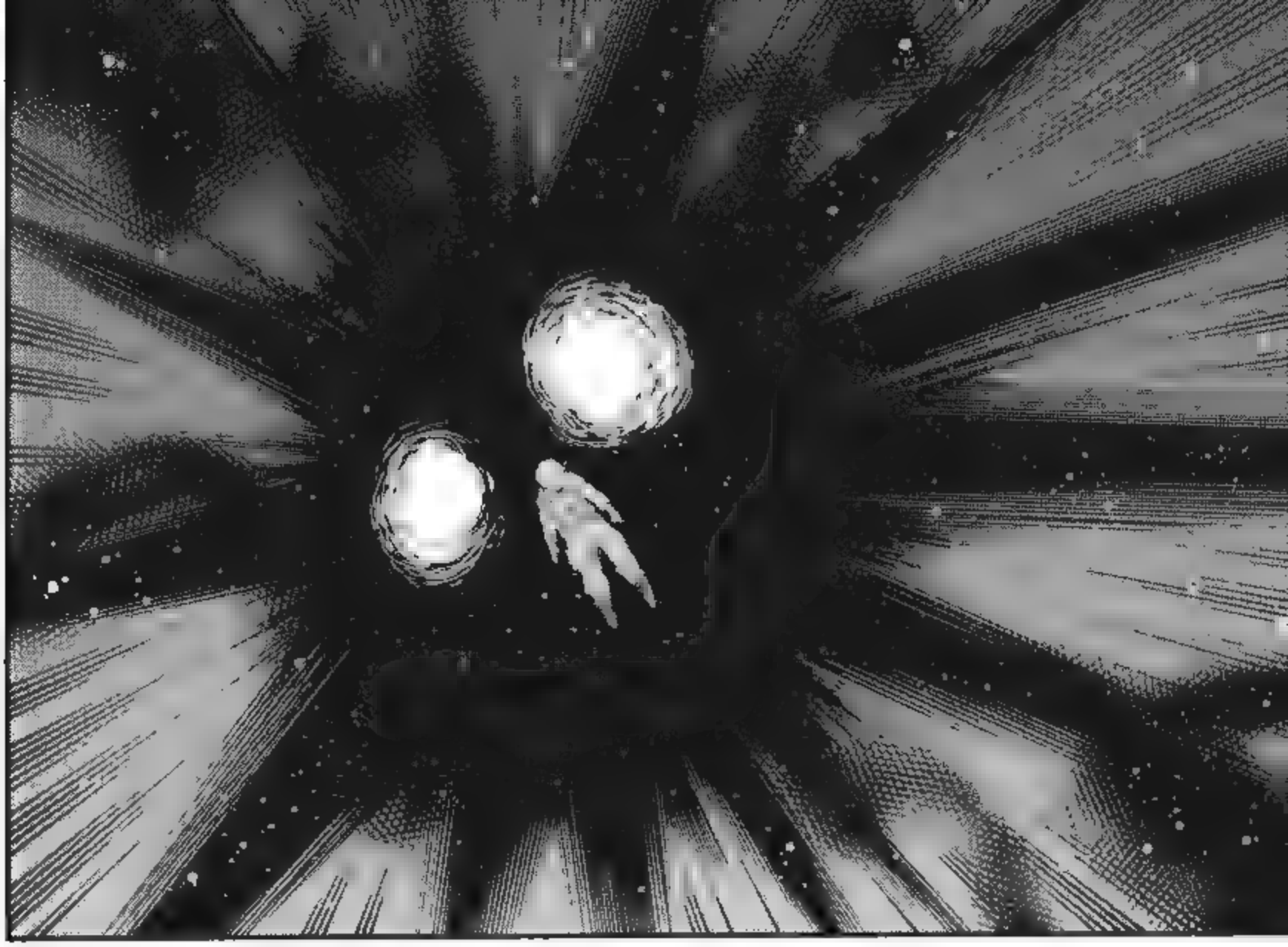
...IS THE CURSE-BEARER.

...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

WE CAN WIN THIS.

"IF WE'RE TOGETHER," YOU MEAN?

HA!



!?

BORO (CRUMBLE)

SAA (SFFT)

PAKI (CRACK)

PAKI

PAKI

PISH! (CRACK)

WHAT'S... GOING ON HERE...?

IT VANISHED !?

VANITAS! NOÉ!

GAKIN (CLANG)

!

BWAH!

I...

I THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD!!!

HAH ハァッ

HAH (PANT)

I'M SORRY. I SAID SOME ARROGANT THINGS A MOMENT AGO...

...BUT NOW I SEE HOW NAIVE I WAS!

THAT'S... WHY I TOLD YOU...

ZEE ゼェ

ZEE (WHEEZE)

KEH- KEH...

KEH...

...

HEH!

HA

HA!

HA

HA

HA- HA!

HA
HA

HA

HA

IT MAKES NO SENSE ...!

HA

REALLY... I HAVE NO IDEA WHY WE'RE STILL ALIVE.

HA

HA

HA
HA

HA

HA
HA

HA

HA

HA!

WE SAVED HIM, VANITAS.

WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

...MOREAU GAVE US THE SLIP, THOUGH.

!?

DOOON (BOOOM)

RUN...

DOO

(BOOM)

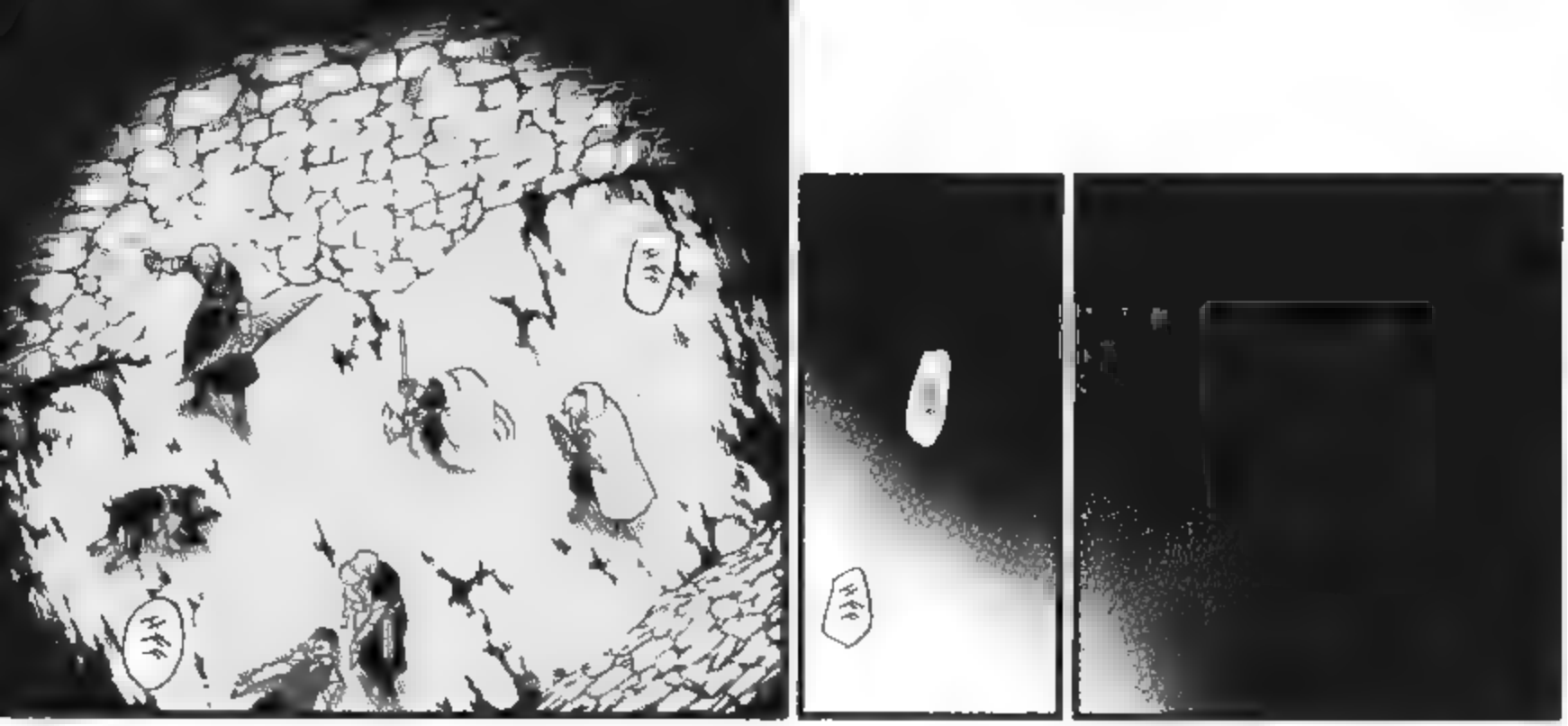
DO

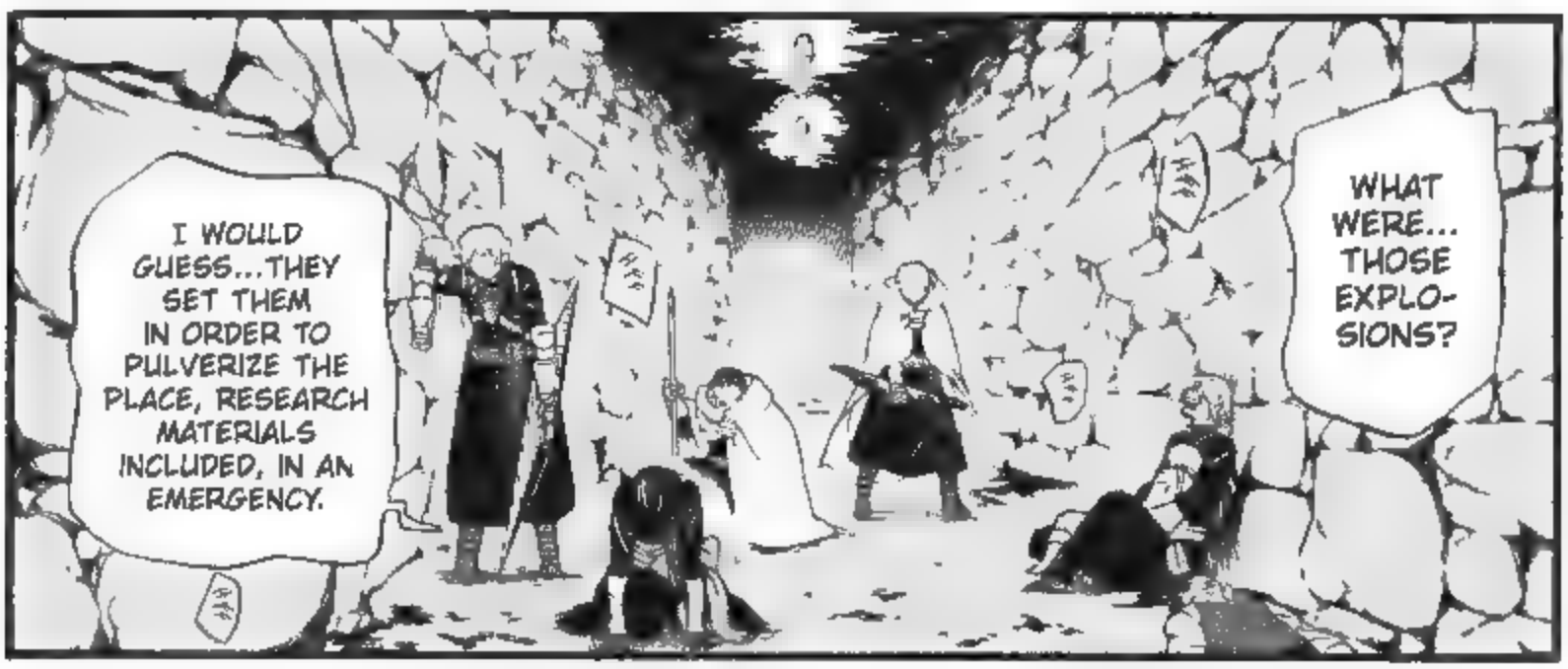
WE'LL BE BURIED ALIVE!!

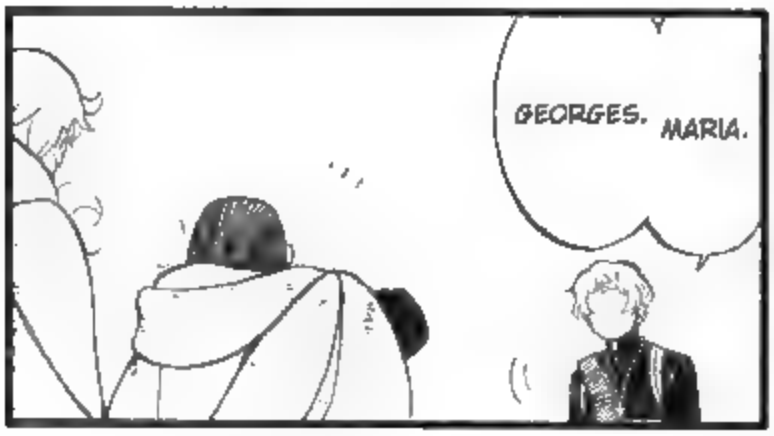
DO

DO

DO




I WOULD GUESS...THEY SET THEM IN ORDER TO PULVERIZE THE PLACE, RESEARCH MATERIALS INCLUDED, IN AN EMERGENCY.
WHAT WERE... THOSE EXPLO-SIONS?


GEORGES.
MARIA.

DAMN IT...I WAS PLANNING TO USE THAT ELEVATOR TO GET OUT OF HERE, BUT NOW...

GIVE THOSE TWO YOUR CLOAKS.

I'LL LOOK AFTER THEM FOR YOU.

!?

NOÉ, THOSE ARE THE VAMPIRES MOREAU KIDNAPPED, RIGHT?

YES.

WE'LL TURN THEM OVER TO COUNT ORLOK.

I'LL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS.

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

THE VAMPIRES AREN'T AT FAULT IN THIS INCIDENT. IN FACT, WE CHASSEURS ARE THE ONES WHO BLUNDERED.

NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUM-STANCES WERE...

...YOU INVADED CHASSEUR TERRITORY, AND YOU'LL BE APPREHENDED AND QUESTIONED.

!

...AND SO, YOU TWO SHOULD GET AWAY FROM THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY.

I KNEW IT.

BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, HURRY AND...

...THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THE EXTREMISTS WHO WANT THE VAMPIRES ANNIHILATED WOULD DO TO HIM IN ORDER TO GET THAT POWER.

IF WORD GOT OUT THAT THE KIN OF THE BLUE MOON, WHO IS RUMORED TO HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY VAMPIRES, HAD APPEARED ...

BACK THEN ...

...THE CAPTAIN INTENTIONALLY FAILED TO REPORT VANITAS'S IDENTITY.

HAH! (GASP)

MARIA.

CAN I ASK YOU TO GUIDE THEM? IF YOU'RE WITH THEM...

THEY WON'T BE SUSPECTED ON THE WAY.

BASA (FLAP)

FOLLOW ME.

...!

GU (RRGH)

?

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

...THE CHASSEURS ARE LETTING A VAMPIRE GET AWAY?

I JUST DON'T WANT TO OWE THAT VAMPIRE ANY FAVORS.

BUT LAURENT ...

BUT—

GU

GU (SHOVE)

GO ON, GO! HURRY. OTHER CHASSEURS WILL BE HERE SOON.

GYUU (SQUEEZE)

!?

GO ON.

HURRY AND GO.

...?

?

...LEAVE THE REST TO US.

THANK YOU, LAURENT!

MM-HM.

ZA (SHUF)

ZA

LAURENT!!

ZA

NEXT TIME...

...LET'S MEET IN THE SUNLIGHT, YOU TWO!

HEY, OLIVIER!

YOUR HAIR'S AS SMOOTH AND SHINY AS EVER TODAY!!

ZA (SHUF)

JYARA (JINGLE)

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!?

EXPLAIN THIS SITUATION!

THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES!

OUCH. OUCH.

WHAT WAS THAT TREMOR? WHAT DID YOU DO THIS TIME!?

OUCH.

GU

GU

GU

GU

GU (RGH)

GO (THWOK)

HEH!
HEH!
HEH!
DON'T BE STARTLED, ALL RIGHT?
WHAT!? DON'T PULL ON MY CLOTHES!
GUI
GUI (TUG)
NEVER MIND THAT, OLIVIER, LISTEN! SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENED!
I'LL REPORT THE DETAILS LATER, PROPERLY.
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT! I MADE FRIENDS WITH A VAMPIRE!
LOOK, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? IF THE OTHER CHASSEURS FIND OUT ABOUT THAT...
...IF THEY FIND OUT?
HM? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? SHALL I FETCH SOME MEDICINE?
MY HEAD!! THE PAIN!! I THINK IT MIGHT SPLIT OPEN!!
IT'S YOUR FAULT, YOU FOOL.

YOU THINK I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY HERE?

...A MINUTE AGO...

...I SAW A TRULY WONDERFUL SIGHT.

HA

HA

...AS IF THEY WERE TRULY ENJOYING THEMSELVES.

A HUMAN AND A VAMPIRE WERE LAUGHING TOGETHER...

WHAT'LL I DO, OLIVIER!?

GU (GRIP)

MY HEART JUST WON'T STOP RACING..!

HUMANS AND VAMPIRES CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.

IT WAS SO EASY!

THAT WAS THE "COMMON SENSE" I'D BELIEVED IN, RIGHT UP UNTIL NOW. I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE DISPROVED

.....

SHUN (DROOP)

...ALL RIGHT.

IF YOU'RE GONE, WHO DO YOU THINK IS GOING TO KEEP ASTOLFO COMPANY?

...LISTEN. WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT DISCUSS THIS WITH ANYONE EXCEPT ME.

HOLD IT.

STOP. DON'T SAY ANY MORE.

...I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, CAPTAIN OLIVIER. I WAS RIGHT THERE WITH HIM, AND IT STILL HAPPENED...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT ISN'T EASY TO STOP THAT FOOL'S RAMPAGES, EVEN FOR ME.

HUH!?

TA (TMP)

TA

TA

TA

GEORGES! GIVE OLIVIER A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF WHAT HAPPENED.

I'LL GO ISSUE ORDERS TO MY SUBORDINATES, THEN.

HE LOOKED AS IF HE DIDN'T CARE EITHER WAY.

YOU THINK I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY HERE?

I THOUGHT HE'D SETTLE DOWN A BIT IF HE WAS IN A POSITION OF RESPONSIBILITY, SO I RECOMMENDED HIM FOR JASPER, AND YET...!

...

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, GEORGES.

STILL...A BELIEVER AS PIOUS AS THE CAPTAIN WOULD NEVER HARM THE CHURCH.

HON-
ESTLY.

STRICTLY SPEAKING, WHAT THAT MAN BELIEVES IN ISN'T "GOD."

THIS IS BOUND TO TURN INTO TROUBLE...

IT'S "HIMSELF," AS A FOLLOWER OF GOD.

GAKO (CLUNK)

WE'RE OUT... ABOVE-GROUND ...!!

ZEE (WHEEZE)

HA!

HA (PANT)

HA!

FINALLY ...!

WAS IT REALLY OKAY FOR US TO PUSH THE REST OF THIS ONTO LAURENT LIKE THAT?

NO IDEA.

ZURI (CRAWL)

IT'S GOOD TO SEE SUN-LIGHT ...

OH! NO, I LIED. IT'S TOO BRIGHT!

MY EYES!

ONCE THERE WERE NO MORE CURSE-BEARERS, I STOPPED CARING.

THOSE WORDS MOREAU SAID BACK THEN...

WHAT'S NO. 71 UP TO THESE DAYS?

VANITAS STARTED ACTING ODD RIGHT AFTER THAT.

BASA (FLAPPA)

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM BEFORE THIS...

WE'VE NEVER DISCUSSED IT.

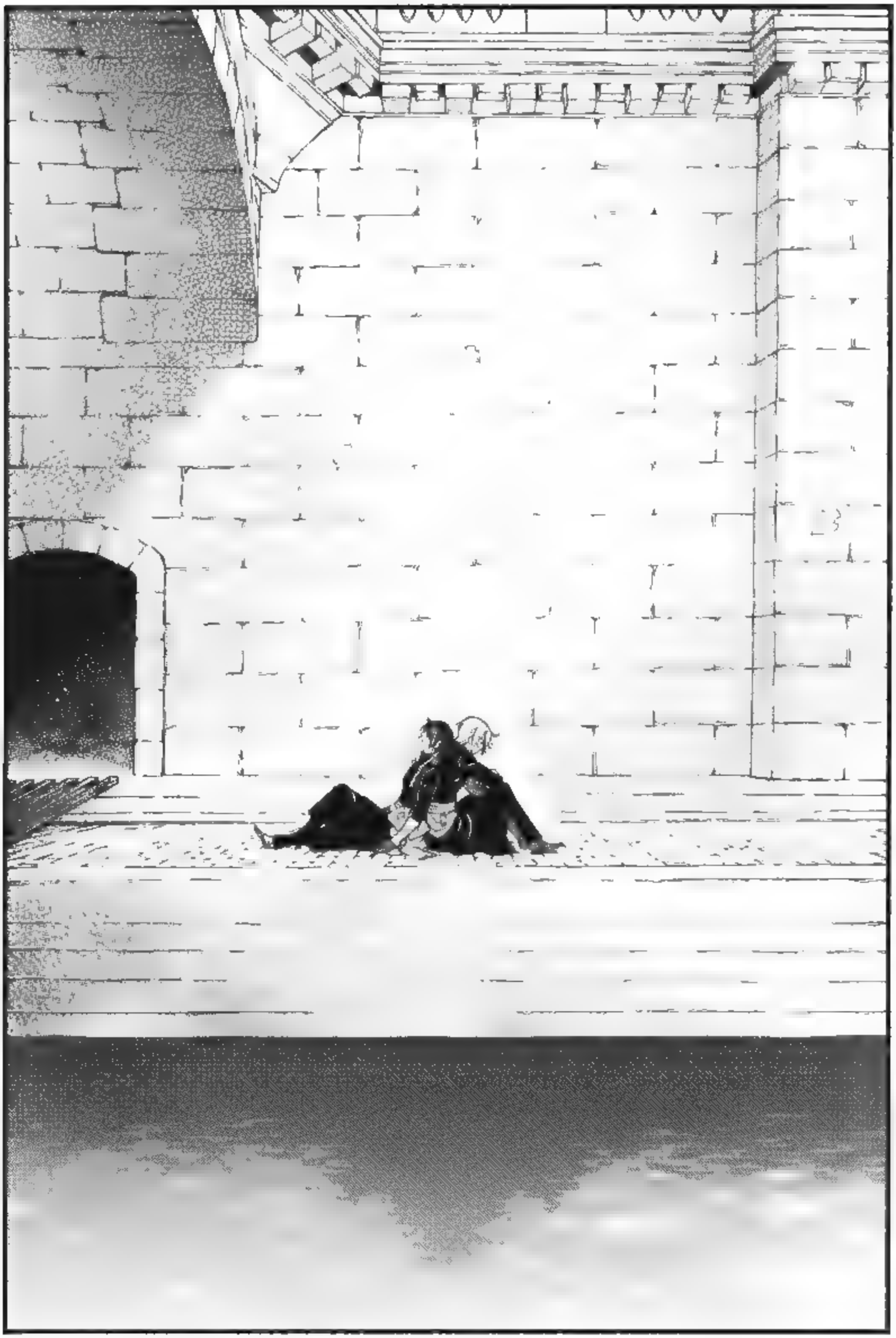
...ALL RIGHT TO ASK?

IS IT...

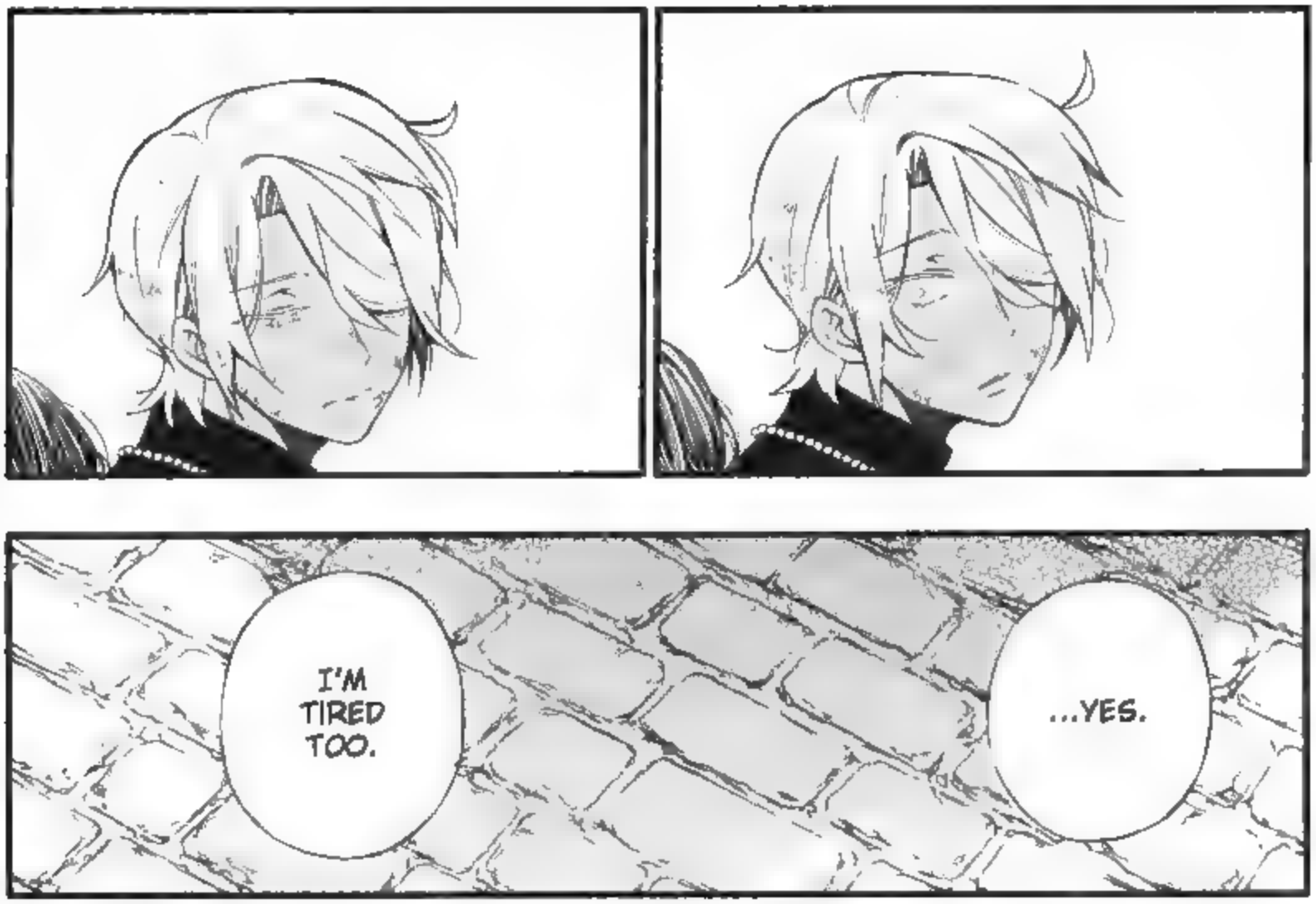
VANITAS ...

CAUGHT NOT

!



.....
I'M TIRED.


I'M TIRED TOO.
...YES.
OH, BEFORE THAT, WE'LL HAVE TO GO GET THE CLOTHES WE HID
FOR NOW, WHY DON'T WE GO BACK TO THE HOTEL AND HAVE MADEMOISELLE AMELIA BRING US SOME BREAKFAST?
...
I'D RATHER SLEEP THAN EAT.
HUH? WAIT, DIDN'T YOU SLEEP AT ALL?

THIS INCIDENT...

I'M SURE VANITAS DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.

OR ENTER DOCTOR MOREAU'S LABORATORY ...

OR DEAL WITH THE CHASSEURS ...

OR SNEAK INTO THE CATACOMBS ...

BECAUSE THERE WERE CURSE-BEARERS THERE.

EVEN SO, HE WENT.

YOU CERTAIN TOOK YO TIME.

NO... I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT.

DID HE FEEL IT WAS HIS MISSION AS A DOCTOR?

...IT LOOKED AS IF HE WAS CLINGING TO THAT.

TO ME...

I WILL SAVE YOU...

...WITHOUT FAIL!!

I WONDER ...

...MIGHT BE VANITAS HIMSELF.

THE ONE WHO'S WISHING FOR IT...

THE ONE WHO WANTS TO BE SAVED MORE THAN ANYONE...

I SEE.

HE'LL BE USELESS FOR A WHILE.

WAAA

DAN (WHUDD)

GASHI (GRAB)

IF HE HADN'T GOTTEN IN THE WAY AT THAT MASKED BALL, I WOULD HAVE KILLED THE GRAND DUKE.

THIS TIME AS WELL...

IF HE HADN'T BEEN THERE, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE...!

...

NOÉ ARCHIVISTE, HM...?

FINE.

BIKU (FLINCH)

SIGH.

I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BOY ON MY END.

TO BE CONTINUED...

The Case Study of Vanitas
Chapter 18

Jun Mochizuki

Translation: Taylor Engel • Lettering: Bianca Pistillo

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